

### 2009-2010 Annual Report



Although we had historic budget cuts across our state, the North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) continued to impact the lives of people with disabilities, their family members, and professionals across North Carolina. During the state fiscal year 10,015 individuals received short-term loans of devices and device demonstrations. Training and support services were provided to 45,391 people. Collaboration with other state, local, and non-profit partners allowed NCATP staff to reach a broader number of disciplines. NCATP increased the number of contacts in the information technology area and continued to partner with the staff of N.C. Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide assessments and recommendations for communication devices and accessories through the Equipment Distribution Service (EDS). Work also continued with the Division of Medical Assistance to add more augmentative communication devices to the durable medical equipment coverage policy under regular Medicaid.

#### Highlights:

- NCATP staff developed a long-term device loan program for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) at the NCATP Morganton office to identify and manage assistive technology that was not being actively used.
- NCATP worked with the New Hanover Regional Medical Center to set up accessible computer work stations in the New Hanover Regional Rehabilitation Center.
- NCATP staff developed on-line AT training modules and provided web-based training across the state.
- 415 people obtained previously used devices for a savings of \$179,709.

## In the most recent rankings of U.S. states and territories:

- NCATP ranks 2nd in the nation in the number of short-term loans of devices
- NCATP ranks 4th in the nation in the number of device demonstrations
- NCATP ranks 8th in the nation for savings obtained with device reutilization

#### N.C. Grant Advisory Members

Sandy McMillan, Chair, Raleigh Paula Kuhn, Hickory Felipe Cabrera, Raleigh Evelyn Lucas, Raleigh Rene Cummins, Raleigh Florita Parker, Bethel Toby Easton, Raleigh Tamme Reese, Raleigh Keith Greenarch, Winston-Salem Bob Smith, Snow Hill Ruth Haines, Asheville Suzanne Todd, Chapel Hill Julie Kagy, Raleigh Penny Zibula, New Bern



Patrick Ward worked with NCATP staff member Shelby Kennerly and the N.C. Independent Living Program to determine his needs for computer access. Patrick, a resident of Avery County, uses a head switch mounted on the back of his wheelchair to operate his computer. Patrick's Mom said, "Computer access has opened a new world for Patrick. He is able to express his ideas with poetry and to communicate with other people."

#### **Assistive Technology Centers**

Individuals with hearing loss can dial 711 or use their video relay services to contact NCATP.

**Charlotte** 704-566-2899 Voice

Elizabeth City

252-830-8575 Voice

Greensboro 336-297-2180 Voice

Greenville 252-830-8575 Voice

Morganton 828-433-2431 Voice

**Raleigh** 919-850-2787 Voice

**Rocky Mount** 

252-446-4330 Voice

**Sanford** 919-775-3439 Voice

**Sylva** 828-631-9461 Voice

Wilmington 910-251-7078 Voice

Winston-Salem

336-716-8030 Voice

# Memories Over the Mountain:

There's a town over the mountain, where I often wonder.

A certain place, where often sets my mind to ponder.

Towns of scenic beauty in which my childhood memories make my heart grow fonder.

A memory in my soul in which that town sets my desire to wander.

Over the mountain, is a certain calmness and peace, that's very seldom found.

A town where I desire to go have a look around.

Where my happiness does abound.

Joy does surround.

By: Patrick Ward

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